



P. Marc LaFrance  
US DOE Technology Development Manager  
United States Department of Energy Office of Building Technology  
1J-018, EE-2J  
1000 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0121

August 20, 2009

**Re:** Letter of Interest for the R-5 and Low-e Storm Windows Volume Purchase.

Dear Mr. LaFrance,

YouthBuild USA is pleased to offer this letter of interest/support to you in regards to the R-5 Windows and Low-e Storm Windows Volume Purchase.

YouthBuild USA is the national intermediary and support center for a network of dynamic programs that offer young people who have dropped out of school a second chance to gain the education, skills, and personal responsibility they need to build a future for themselves and their families. YouthBuild USA provides training and technical assistance through on-site guidance, telephone coaching, webinars, conferences, publications, and pass-through grantmaking.

In YouthBuild programs, trainees split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they prepare for their GED or high school diploma, have access to counseling and peer support groups, participate in cultural activities, and learn to be community leaders. Through their work on the construction sites and in the classrooms, students identify their innate abilities, take on new responsibilities, overcome challenges, and grow as leaders.

Because of the administration's goals to weatherize a million homes annually, and because there are currently 276 YouthBuild programs building or renovating over 1,000 homes annually, YouthBuild can help America achieve this goal. Weatherization connects the nation's top priorities of creating jobs, increasing energy efficiency, and helping stabilize the housing market. Because of this, we are interested in helping make your initiative to be successful for our members as well as for other stakeholders.

YouthBuild USA is committed to find access for our members to products with the following criteria:

- Highly-insulating windows that have a whole-window R-value of 5 (a U-factor of around 0.2).
- R-5 Windows that meet a price premium of \$4/ft<sup>2</sup> or lower over current common ENERGYSTAR approved windows.
- (Spec s) R-5 and Low-e Storm windows produced in volume that can be incorporated in the residential buildings.

We are confident that through the efforts of windows manufacturers, the US Department of Energy, and potential end-users like YouthBuild, R-5 and Low-e Storm windows can become an important role of dealing with our nation's top priorities.

Sincerely,

Eva Blake  
Green Initiative Director  
YouthBuild USA